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by Brekelenkam in which a mother is seated beside her baby, who is in a box-like baby chair furnished with counters. There is also a large full-length figure of Christ Blessing,²² by Andrea Solario, which was formerly in the Crespi Collection in Milan, and which Adolfo Venturi ascribes to the artist's last years.

These pictures have been on exhibition for a month in Gallery 25,²³ together with a number of etchings by Mary Cassatt

Two of the tapestries are presumably from a larger set relating the history of Moses. The subject of one is Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh; of the other, the Miracle of the Rods turned into Serpents. The tapestries are French; the cartoons are in the style of the beginning of the sixteenth century, but the tapestries may have been woven somewhat later in the century.

The third tapestry, an unusually large one, measuring 13 feet, 4½ inches by 20



POND IN THE VALLEY BY GUSTAVE COURBET

from the Museum collection. The visitor has thus been enabled to have a more or less comprehensive view of the talents of this gifted artist who has been up to now more adequately appreciated in France than in her native country. B. B.

A LOAN OF TAPESTRIES

THREE interesting late Gothic tapestries, anonymously lent, have recently been put on exhibition in Galleries H 13 and 14.

²² Panel. H. 80½ in.; W. 51½ in.

²³ Several of the Cassatts may now be seen in Gallery 12.

feet, 3 inches, is Flemish, Brussels work, dating from the first third of the sixteenth century. Although it is not in such good condition as the other two, as it has been considerably restored, it is extremely interesting from the point of view of subject-matter. The principal theme is the Coronation of the Virgin. Attended by Temperance and Prudence, the Virgin is crowned by the Trinity, around whose throne stand angels and various patriarchs, including Noah, Jacob, David, Moses, and Aaron. In the foreground are a pope, an emperor, and other personages representing ecclesiastical and temporal power; this

group recalls a similar rendering of the theme in the Mazarin tapestry of the Kingdom of Heaven, formerly in the Morgan Collection and well known to Museum visitors. The scenes on the right of the Coronation have not yet been identified; the problem is complicated by the fact that the composition of this part of the tapestry is obviously incomplete. As the original cartoon was undoubtedly a symmetrical design, part of the tapestry may have been destroyed, or, as sometimes happened, part of the cartoon may have been omitted when the tapestry was woven.

On the left, however, the tapestry is complete, and we recognize the Tiburtine Sibyl revealing to the Emperor Octavian (Augustus) a vision of the Virgin and Child. The attitude of the Emperor accords with the instructions of the mystery plays of the time, from which we learn that the Emperor, attended by three of his officers, removed his crown when he beheld the vision, and, taking a censer from an attendant, burned incense before the Virgin and Child. It is interesting to note that in the foreground of the tapestry may be seen a woman carrying a censer. The upper scene is illustrative of Proverbs 9:1, "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars"; the four women occupied in building the house are Temperance, Prudence, Charity, and Modesty. In the lower corner at the left is a seated figure of a man holding a scroll with an inscription which can not now be read owing to meaningless restorations. The subject of the scene above is Solomon's choice of wisdom. When God, appearing in a dream to Solomon, said, "Ask what I shall give thee," Solomon chose "an understanding heart," that is to say, wisdom. In the representation of the scene, a female figure, escorted by an angelic messenger, brings (or reveals) to Solomon the symbolic heart.

The parallelism between the flaming heart, symbolic of wisdom, and the Christ-child, whom the Virgin shows to the Emperor Octavian in the adjacent scene, is intentional. We are to understand that Christ is the Wisdom (the Logos) of God, for in this sense, the "house" which Wisdom (Christ) "hath builded" signifies his

Mother, the Virgin Mary. These scenes, apparently unconnected, of Wisdom's house, Octavian's vision, and Solomon's choice are therefore in reality closely related to the principal theme of the tapestry, the glorification of the Virgin. J. B.

A LOAN FROM THE POPE FOUNDATION

THE Museum is fortunate in having an opportunity to exhibit in its galleries a number of nineteenth-century paintings of the finest quality lent by the Alfred Atmore Pope Foundation. Lent by Harris Whittemore to the Loan Exhibition of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Paintings last summer was a picture formerly in the same distinguished collection. This, the Interior by Degas, one of his comparatively early works, proved to be one of the most enjoyable pictures of the exhibition. The marvelously refined painting of its every square inch not only gave continual pleasure to lovers of the pictures of earlier times but also compelled the deep respect of those who have surrendered themselves to the admiration of the most recent artistic developments.

Thanks to the present loan, Gallery 21 is enriched by two other pictures by Degas, and these illustrate again at their finest two later phases of his work. Both pictures were painted in the middle eighteenth-eighties. One, an oil painting of ballet girls, shows several of these delectable performers in the immediate foreground. Few painters in all history have given to flesh such beautiful quality. The Bather, a pastel evidently of the same period, shows a young woman standing in a tub and bending to dip her sponge into the shallow water. The drawing, keenly alive at every point, has in addition the quality of sensuous color with a rendering of atmosphere which he sometimes ignored in his later work.

A third picture by Degas, a small and characteristically piquant painting of race-horses, hangs in the next room, Gallery 20. On the same wall is shown the fine painting of Lawyers by Daumier from the same collection.

Another interesting group of pictures